

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the third paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:**

Further, factors ~~that influence~~<sup>given to</sup> filter characteristics other than the apparent density include the void volume index. The void volume index is a factor which represents a volume occupied by voids in a definite installing area of the filter material. Space for retaining dust increases and the life is prolonged, as this void volume index becomes high. However, as demerits, not only the collection efficiency for dust decreases, but also the thickness becomes too thick or the rigidity is too low, so that contact of adjacent pleats with each other becomes liable to occur after pleating. The void volume index is preferably from 1.0 to 4.0. Less than 1.0 results in low DHC or short life, whereas exceeding 4.0 results in failure to take a large filtration area as a pleated product.

**Please replace the third paragraph bridging page 16 and 17 with the following amended paragraph:**

For example, more particularly, taking the three-layer structure as an example, the fiber layer of the upper layer has the operation and effect as a pre-filter for trapping large particles of about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or more ~~operation and effect of the fiber layer of the upper layer is an object of a pre-filter for trapping large particles of about 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or more.~~ When the layer is constituted by fibers of less than 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , even small particles of less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$  adhere to a surface thereof to accelerate clogging. Accordingly, the life becomes short.

**Please replace the first paragraph on page 31 with the following amended paragraph:**

Further, a corresponding relation between the void volume index and DHC of examples 1 to 4 and comparative example 3 is shown in Fig. 1~~comparison of a corresponding relation between the void volume index and DHC of Table 2 is shown in Fig. 1.~~